

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-11 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ARA-06

ACDA-05 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /084 W

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O R 201818Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9185

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 02733

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH

SUBJECT: CALLAGHAN EXCHANGES WITH SMITH

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1. IAN SMITHS ANNOUNCEMENT IN SALISBURY FEBRUARY 20 THAT HE IS CONSIDERING A BRITISH GOVERNMENT OFFER TO ASSIST IN FINDING A CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION FOR RHODESIA TOOK LONDON BY SURPRISE TODAY. ONLY YESTERDAY, MINISTER OF STATE DAVID ENNALS SAID IN A SPEECH THAT A GUARDIAN NEWS-PAPER ARTICLE ON A POSSIBLE UK OVERTURE TO SMITH WAS "TOTALLY INACCURATE". THE STORY, WRITTEN BY PATRICK KEATLEY, SAID THAT SMITH "HAD BEEN TOLD THAT BRITAIN MAY BE PREPARED TO PROTECT HIS COUNTRY - DIPLOMATICALLY OR EVEN MILITARILY - TO KEEP THE CUBANS AT BAY, PROVIDED HE RENOUNCES HIS TEN-YEAR OLD REBELLION AND PREPARES TO LEAVE OFFICE." KEATLEY WROTE THAT THE OFFER WAS PUT TO SMITH BY A SEARET FCO EMISSARY WHO SLIPPED INTO SALISBURY LAST WEEK. ELNALS SAID YESTERDAY THAT NO OFFICIAL HAD BEEN IN SALISBURY "LAST WEEK". (KEATLEY HAS A REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENT FACTS BUT POOR INTERPRETATION. ENNALS, ON THE OTHER HAND, MAY HAVE BEEN COY IN ONLY DENYING THE PRESENCE OF AN OFFICIAL IN SALISBURY LAST WEEK.)

2. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN. FOLLOWING THE NEWS OF OF SMITH'S REMARK. TODAY ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT BRITAIN COULD BECOME INVOLVED "ONLY IF SHE WAS SATISFIED THAT MR. SMITH WAS READY TO BE FLEXIBLE." HE ALSO STRESSED THAT SMITH WOULD HAVE TO GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS COMPROMISE IN MEETING JOSHUA NKOMO'S PROPOSALS. CALLAGHAN SAID THAT "FAILURE TO INDICATE A GENUINE WILLINGNESS TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE AFRICAN MAJORITY IN RHODESIA WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO A BREAKDOWN IN THE NEGOTIATIONS" WHICH IN TURN WOULD PRODUCE "AN INTENSIFICATION OF GUEPRILLA WAR AGAINST RHODESIA ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE." MORE PRECISELY REFERRING TO THE EXCHANGES WITH SMITH, CALLAGHAN EXPLAINED: "MESSAGES HAVE BEEN REACHING ME FROM VARIOUS SOURCES INDICATING THAT MR. SMITH WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AGAIN. IN VIEW OF THE INDIRECT MESSAGES WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED ABOUT MR. SMITH'S CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON BRITISH INVOLVEMENT, I DECIDED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO HIM TO INQUIRE WHETHER THE REPORTS REACHING ME WERE ACCURATE AND WHETHER IT WAS TRUE NOW THAT HE WANTED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO BECOME CONFIDENTIAL

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INVOLVED." THE FCO SAYS THEY HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED

SPIERS

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-11

/071 W

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O R 201818Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9186

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 02733

CAPETOWN FOR EMB

SMITH'S REPLY.

3. COMMENT. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHETHER THE OVERTURES

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TO SMITH ARE CONNECTED WITH SIR ANTHONY DUFF'S MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA WEEKEND BEFORE LAST. DUFF HAS TOLD US THAT HE DID NOT MAKE ANY OTHER STOPS ON HIS AFRICAN TRIP, BUT MESSAGES COULD HAVE BEEN CONVEYED VIA SOUTH AFRICAN INTERMEDIARIES. WHATEVER HAS TRANSPIRED BETWEEN CALLAGHAN AND SMITH IS CLOSELY GUARDED HERE AND SOME HAVE SPECULATED THAT EVEN ENNALS HAS BEEN LEFT OUT OF THE GAME.

4. IF SMITH, AFTER TEN YEARS OF OBSTINANCY, HAS INDEED UNDERGONE A CHANGE OF HEART. IT IS A MIRACLE OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS. DIRECT INVOLVEMENT BY THE BRITISH IN THE SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS PRESUMABLY MUST BE PRECEDED BY A RESUMPTION OF ITS CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY. THE END OF UDI. AND THE DEPARTURE OF SMITH FROM AFRICAN POLITICS. ALTHOUGH THE FORCES, INTIMIDATIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES FLOWING FROM ANGOLA MAY IN FACT HAVE OVERWHELMED SMITH. THOSE HERE WHO KNOW HIM WELL SUSPECT THAT HIS ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HIS INSINCERITY AND DECEPTIVENESS,

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 APR 2004  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

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**Subject:** CALLAGHAN EXCHANGES WITH SMITH  
**TAGS:** PFOR, RH, UK, (CALLAGHAN, JAMES), (SMITH, IAN)  
**To:** STATE INFO ADDIS ABABA  
CAPETOWN  
DAR ES SALAAM  
MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

